

Appl. No. 09/901,509
Reply to Final Office Action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the courteous interviews granted to applicants' representative and prompt consideration of the application under the circumstances. Claims 23 and 40 are pending.

The claims have been amended herein to specify that the pump produces at least a negative pressure, which is generated to aid in the extraction of breast milk from the user. It should be noted that some breast pumps, in addition to producing periodic negative pressure, may also produce periodic positive pressure, which is typically interspersed between periods of negative pressure.

The claims also specify that outlets in communication with the changeable volume are provided to connect to a breastshield. The breastshield is the funnel shaped device which is shaped and sized to fit to the mother's breast.

It is believed that all remaining issues related to §112 have been traversed in previous remarks.

Most breast pumps have been designed to extract breast milk from one breast at a time. However, breast pumps for extracting breastmilk from both mother's breasts simultaneously have historically been large, heavy machines (page 1, line 20-23). Embodiments of the invention shown in the present application address the need for a breast pump capable of generating pressure changes sufficient to operate two breastshields simultaneously. At the same time the breast pumps for double pumping according to the present invention are miniaturized to an extent not shown in the prior art. The embodiments of FIGS. 12 and 14 produce negative pressure in an alternating fashion, the embodiments of FIGS. 1 and 21 produce negative pressure in a tandem (non-alternating) fashion.

Each of the present embodiments is unique and each includes unique elements and arrangement of elements. The devices embodied in the instant claims are novel and unobvious in view of the art. The instant invention set out in independent Claim 23 includes a motor and a

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pair of expansible chambers. The chambers are driven in tandem by a unique drive train. The drive train converts the rotational motion from a single motor into tandem reciprocal motion to the pair of chambers. This capability is not shown or suggested by any of the prior art, and in particular, is not possible with any of the drive trains of the prior art. The claimed device addresses a unique problem (operating two chambers in tandem with a single motor) and solves it with a unique set of elements. Thus, it can be seen that the claimed invention is not a mere multiplication of parts because doing so with any of the pre-existing devices would not arrive at the presently claimed device without an inventive step and inventive elements at least with respect to the drive train.

Applicants request reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited. A Petition for Extension of Time is being submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



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